

Workplace Alaska

Class Specification Health Practitioner I

Created:
01/06/1998 by Rachel Wilson
Finalized on:

AKPAY Code: P5212
Class Outline Cat: B
Approved by:

Class Code: PG0421
Class Range: 24
Class Status: Active

Category: Professional
Original Date: 03/31/1989

Class Title: Health Practitioner I
Use MJR Form: Standard

Original Comments:

ORIGINAL - (DLS) Note: Replaces the job class
Physicians Assistant I, class code 5210.

Subsequent Revision Dates/Comments:

06/16/90 - Range change (KY).
03/01/2001 - Range change - Pilot project.
07/01/2006 - Classification Outline revised. Class code
changed to PG0421; AKPAY code P5212. (SBrinkley)
12/01/2006 - Range change from 23 in accordance with
Market Based Pay Policy. (DKiesel)
09/25/2008 - Workplace AK spec revision: Added Census
Job Code and AKPAY Code fields; Replaced Category field
with Class Outline Category; Updated EEO4, SOC, and Class
Code fields; Removed DOT field.

Last Update: **EEO4:** B **SOC:** 29-1071 **Census:** 02

Last Update Comments:

Definition:

Under general direction, is assigned to provide primary health care to one of several client groups. The Health Practitioner conducts physical examinations, takes medical histories, diagnoses uncomplicated maladies, orders tests, and X-rays, devises treatment plans, and prescribes medications. The Health Practitioner may work in a collaborative arrangement with a particular physician depending on the department's preference. The Health Practitioner seeks guidance and counsel of appropriate physicians or other medical personnel as necessary on a case by case basis. Complicated cases or those requiring medical specialists are referred to the appropriate medical institution or physician for treatment, after the patient is given necessary emergency care. Incumbents of this job class possess either a Physician's Assistant or Advanced Nurse Practitioner certificate in the state of Alaska. Positions may require specialized experience in a particular field such as family, emergency, surgical, obstetric, geriatric or women's health care.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

The health practitioner class differs from other medically oriented classes in that diagnosis and treatment is limited to initial treatment and/or referral for illnesses and emergency care. This job class may be distinguished from other nursing classes by the greater emphasis on diagnosis and treatment of illnesses or conditions. Where public health nurses focus on maintaining and encouraging a state of good health and the community as a whole, the health practitioner focuses on diagnosis and treatment of specific medical problems in the individual.

Examples of Duties:

Makes initial assessment and diagnosis of the patient's health status (takes medical history, provides physical examination and obtains appropriate diagnostic tests and X-rays); interprets findings; provides routine medical care and treatment; collaborates with physician sponsor in case management as necessary.

Performs a variety of diagnoses involving such conditions as diabetes, hypertension, respiratory and circulatory problems, ulcers, venereal disease, gout, dietary deficiencies, colds, influenza, pneumonia, various infections and the like.

Conducts microscopic examinations to identify and isolate various infections and takes blood cell counts; draws blood and prepares for laboratory analysis; takes smears; requests special laboratory assistance for studies beyond the institutional capability. Refers complex symptoms to physician for assistance in diagnosis and treatment.

Treats sprains and casting of simple fractures; sutures lacerations; removes warts, superficial tumors and cysts; and performs other minor surgical procedures.

Conducts daily sick call or rounds in the facility; diagnoses illnesses, develops and carries out treatment plans. Maintains liaison between facility and local physicians and hospitals; deals directly with outside agencies on treatment plans; maintains health records and prepares reports of diagnosis and treatment.

Provides obstetric care to pregnant women and midwife services for delivery of babies.

Prescribes class II-V drugs as appropriate to the individual treatment plan and in accordance with State licensing requirements and the

prescriptive authority granted by the Alaska Board of Nursing or the Alaska Medical Board.

May include supervision of nurses assigned to the institution and other paraprofessional staff; inspection of institution for occupational safety and health; monitoring and inspecting food preparation in institution.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Considerable knowledge of methods of general medicine and primary health care.

Considerable knowledge of appropriate responses in life threatening situations.

Considerable knowledge of methods of diagnosing and treating medical disorders, as well as the symptoms of more serious illnesses or conditions.

Considerable knowledge of the proper functioning of all body systems.

Considerable knowledge of the appropriate laboratory tests and drug and/or physical therapies available.

Considerable knowledge of normal physical and mental development and the aging process.

Ability to examine, diagnose, and treat physical disease, injuries and medical disorders.

Ability to interpret routine laboratory analyses and X-rays, and to prepare case histories.

Ability to think and act quickly and appropriately in emergencies.

Ability to recognize the symptoms of drug abuse and respond appropriately to attempts to obtain unnecessary prescriptions.

Ability to recognize serious illnesses and conditions and refer these problems to an appropriate physician or mental health professional for advice or treatment.

Minimum Qualifications:

Must possess licensure in the State of Alaska as either an Advanced Nurse Practitioner or a Physician's Assistant per 12 AAC 44.400 or 12 AAC 40.400.

Special Requirements: The employing department may require establishment of a collaboration agreement with an approved physician as a condition of employment.

Required Job Qualifications:

(The special note is to be used to explain any additional information an applicant might need in order to understand or answer questions about the minimum qualifications.)

Special Note:

The employing department may require establishment of a collaboration agreement with an approved physician as a condition of employment.

Minimum Qualification Questions:

Are you eligible for licensure as either an Advanced Nurse Practitioner or a Physician's Assistant per 12 AAC 44.400 or 12 AAC 40.400?